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# The Highlander

Thursday **April 9 2020** | Issue 434

**INSIDE: OPEN FOR BUSINESS PAGES 10-11**

**FREE**



April Martin of Sew What! is making and giving away face masks. She delivered some to the Canada Post outlet in Haliburton on April 6. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

## County mask-makers swinging into action

### COVID-19

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton seamstress April Martin is busily sewing face masks as her contribution to the local fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Martin, who runs a home-based business

called Sew What!, said she is providing them for free to anyone who wants them. She said she is also willing to share her pattern with other home-based sewers in the Highlands.

The seamstress said she has seen the demand for homemade masks for private citizens on the national news. She said that

is because people don't want to buy up N95 particulate that frontline health care workers need.

She added it's also about pulling together for the safety of our senior citizen population.

"I'm making them for anybody who needs them. They are in a Styrofoam cooler,

bagged individually and marked men or women, on my front porch."

She asks that people call ahead or text 705-457-8764 as she is social distancing.

Martin said she has "scads of odds and ends" to make the masks. She follows a pattern using two pieces of cloth, nine by 13 inches. She also uses elastic but is

See 'Health' on page 2

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Fire trucks drive by the Haliburton hospital as part of a procession of emergency vehicles April 7. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

## First responders say 'thank you'

COVID-19

By Joseph Quigley

Emergency responders showed their appreciation for frontline workers in Minden and Haliburton with drive-bys April 1 and 6.

Dubbed the "Light it Up" project, fire departments, OPP and paramedic services drove by the Minden hospital April 1 with lights flashing to send a thank you message. They did the same in Haliburton April 6, also visiting the two local grocery stores.

Dysart et al fire chief Mike Iles said it was inspired by displays of support being made elsewhere.

"It was a thank you to the community. Thank you to the service professionals, the community workers for all the support and hard work they've done during this very stressful time," Iles said.

Haliburton County Paramedic Services deputy chief Jo-Ann Hendry said healthcare workers could not do their jobs without the support of hospital staff, delivery personnel and workers at pharmacies, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations.

"The brave individuals are our neighbours, relatives and friends. We fully support their efforts and wanted to show our appreciation," Hendry said.

Haliburton Foodland owner Brad Park said his staff were very appreciative of the gesture.

"It's nice to see all the frontline workers come together during these uncertain times to be honoured by our hardworking first responders. This shows the strength of our community," Park said.

"We know we are in the early stages of this pandemic and it's scary to think what is coming," Haliburton Highlands Health Services director of care Michelle Douglas said. "To witness our front line staff standing outside of our hospital last evening as the OPP, Fire and EMS commended them for their bravery and commitment to our community was an emotional experience. All I can say is the feeling is mutual."

Iles said they are not planning to duplicate the gesture as the situation is changing everyday and they do not want to encourage the public to group for drive-bys.

But Iles said there was a great show of community support. "People honking horns, people waving, it was very well done," Iles said.

## Health Unit not sold on homemade cloth

Continued from page 1

running low and would welcome donations on her front porch. She said people can also use shoelaces to tie them on.

It takes her about 15 minutes to make a mask. She said they feature outer fabric, a baton for filtering and a lining, as well as a nose piece that can scrunch.

Martin said when she was ill a few years ago, the community supported her. She added it has supported her grandson, who has autism.

"I try to give back to the community."

Luba Cargill is another Haliburton County sewer who is keen to see patterns.

"There's a lot of discussion about making masks," she said. "If someone could share the patterns, and what's proper and what's not proper, we could have an industry here in Haliburton."

Shawn Wilson is more of a designer than a sewer and has come up with his own prototype he is planning to share. It's based on the hands-free harmonica concept musicians use when they also play the guitar. The base of his mask sits on people's shoulders - connected to the

actual mask on their faces.

"It needs to be refined a lot better," he said.

Local MPP Jamie Schmale said people have been asking him and his office about face masks and helping the national cause.

He directs them to: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/calling-all-suppliers-help-canada-combat-covid-19>.

Meanwhile, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit says on its website that, "When it comes to homemade cloth masks, Health Canada is cautioning people on their use. These types of masks are not medical devices, are not regulated and come with a number of limitations. There is no evidence these masks block particles, and may in fact encourage you to touch your face more as you try to adjust the mask."

Martin replied, "I think it depends on how the masks are made ... I say it doesn't cost anything to take an extra step, but doing nothing could cost you everything. The intention is to have extra protection if you must go out, not a device to give you access to run amok. You should still be social distancing."

## SIRCH sets up collection depot for masks

SIRCH, in collaboration with Haliburton Highlands Health Services, will be serving as a collection depot for homemade fabric face masks.

HHHS said it currently has sufficient quantities of medical masks but recognizes that fabric masks could be a response option when other supplies have been exhausted.

They said fabric masks can also be used in the community, for non-medical individuals who want to be safe when needing to be out and about.

People shouldn't consider wearing a homemade face mask as a substitute for regularly washing their hands and other preventative measures, such as physical distancing and not touching their face. But masks may

help reduce droplet transmissions in closer quarters with people.

"HHHS has first dibs, of course, on any masks received by SIRCH," said Gena Robertson, executive director of SIRCH. "But we hope we receive many thousands so they are available to give to cashiers, delivery people, tenants in social housing, people in food services, anyone caring for someone with Covid-19."

Community members sew masks to specifications

They drop clean masks in the bin outside SIRCH Central (2 Victoria St. in Haliburton) (or SIRCH will find someone to pick them up).

Masks will be re-cleaned and sanitized by HHHS, then returned to SIRCH

SIRCH volunteers will bag the masks individually, using protective gear to avoid contamination

Bags will have a label with instructions for wearing and washing

Masks will be distributed to businesses, organizations and residents who request them.

### Masks need to meet the following specifications:

- Double fabric, pleated mask design, ideally with dark polyester (or 100 per cent cotton) outside, and 100 per cent lighter-coloured cotton inside. It is requested that cotton fabric is pre-washed (to allow for any shrinkage).
- Elastic ear loops or cloth ties
- Go to the sirch website for instructions.
- It's important that a homemade mask be moisture-resistant, washable and washed regularly. That's why most do-it-yourselfers are using cotton T-shirts or cotton sheets.
- Drop your clean masks in the bin outside SIRCH Central, 2 Victoria St., Haliburton any week day between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and on weekends between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Lisa Gervais)

*But we hope we receive many thousands so they are available to give to cashiers, delivery people, tenants in social housing, people in food services, anyone caring for someone with Covid-19.*

Gena Robertson,

Executive Director of SIRCH



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Haliburton had its first confirmed case of COVID-19 the day before a new testing centre opened. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

## COVID-19 reaches Haliburton

### COVID-19

By Joseph Quigley

COVID-19 has officially reached the County of Haliburton with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit confirming the first two cases in the area April 1 and 6.

The health unit said the first case was a man in his 90s, who was brought to Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) March 30, diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for COVID-19. The County resident had no travel history and had not been in direct contact with any other confirmed cases. HKPR said the man was admitted to hospital, isolated and is recovering. The health unit has not disclosed details on the second case.

HKPR medical officer of health Dr. Lynn Noseworthy said it is another reminder to take precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing and hand washing. The first Haliburton case comes more than two weeks after the first case in the district, which was March 11 in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

"I don't know why it's taken this long to have a first case confirmed in Haliburton," Noseworthy told *The Highlander*. "People should take appropriate precautions. They should stay home unless they're providing an essential service."

The health unit indicated it would not send media releases about cases beyond the first but will continue to provide updated numbers on cases, deaths and outbreaks.

In a press release, Noseworthy said the health unit has worked with HHHS throughout the pandemic to prepare for a positive case. HHHS also partnered with the County and the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team to open a COVID testing centre March 31.

"We will continue to take the steps required to protect the health and safety of our community, patients, residents, clients, staff and physicians, and encourage everyone to do their part to keep our community safe," HHHS CEO and president Carolyn Plummer said.

Noseworthy said she had no idea how many unconfirmed cases there might be in Haliburton but added people "should assume it's in the community" and limit trips to essential ones, such as grocery shopping.

"Very, very, very important that people stay home, stop the spread and stay safe," she said.

There are still people not heeding that directive, Noseworthy said.

"For the most part, they are, but I do believe there are people out there who aren't," Noseworthy said. "We know there are people congregating out in the community ... and that's got to stop."

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Construction continues April 6 at the future site of a new seniors housing complex at 1 Sunnyside St. in Haliburton. The province is allowing ongoing construction projects to continue during the pandemic, but new residential construction will be limited. *Photo by Joseph Quigley.*

## Businesses shift after essential service list cut

### COVID-19

By Joseph Quigley

Haliburton's construction and marina sectors are winding down but accepting of the provincial government's decision to limit their operations on the newest essential businesses list April 3.

The province cut the list of businesses which could stay open during the COVID-19 pandemic. The construction and marina industries were considered essential when the first list was released March 23. But now new residential construction is halted, though ongoing construction projects can continue. Marinas can also only open to assist those accessing a primary residence. The rules apply until at least April 18.

Haliburton Marine and Storage owner Pat Bradley said he is not thrilled by the decision, but he agrees with it.

"We're a community that's going to get affected very, very drastically if we don't all do something about it," Bradley said. "Morally, the right thing to do is limit the exposure to everybody in any way that you can."

The province also restricted several businesses to alternative models like curbside pick up and delivery only. These include stores selling hardware products, vehicle parts and supplies, pet and animal supplies, office supplies, computer products and repairs and safety supplies.

"If you are not an essential business, you need to close your doors, work from home

if possible and play a role to help contain this outbreak. This is a matter of life and death," Premier Doug Ford said in a press release.

The Haliburton County Home Builders' Association said in a press release it supports the province's decision to limit construction. It added members have worked to meet requirements for sanitization and distancing on build sites allowed to continue.

"The Haliburton County Home Builders' Association has been focused on the health and safety of everyone on job sites," president Keith Thomas said.

As far as the government flipping on what businesses are essential, Bradley said he can understand how COVID-19 could make it

difficult to figure out.

"If I'm being completely honest, it would be hard to argue a boat is an essential service," Bradley said. "But this thing evolves so quickly. Nobody knows the right thing to do at the time."

For now, Bradley said working online and phone only has not hurt them much and customers are supportive. But he added a delayed start date to the cottage season will hurt.

"It has yet to hit our pocketbook, but it will, I know it will. The way other businesses have been hit already, very, very hard. I sympathize with them," he said.

"I hope everybody chooses to do the right thing and we get over this as soon as possible."

## Tekrider makes shift to medical clothing

### COVID-19

By Lisa Gervais

With a military background, Tekrider TekVest owner Steve Brand said he's been absolutely fine with the logistics of converting from making high-end recreation and sports clothing to medical protective gear.

The Haliburton County company began making products earlier this week, including gowns, masks, booties and bouffants.

Brand said the turn-around time has been quick but the business has been in the cut and sew business for 24 years, making top of the line safety apparel, so it was "very easy for us to switch over to medical gear."

Brand said he started making inquiries before the government started listing essential services. When Premier Doug Ford made the announcement, he said some

red tape ensued. He said he spoke with Warden Liz Daniels, who wrote a letter to the province asking Tekrider be declared an essential service.

Danielsen said sourcing materials such as protective masks was something that the County's EMS department has been working on during this unprecedented emergency.

She said that through the process, Tekrider was contacted about the manufacture and supply of masks for local paramedics. She said this extended to their ability to produce gowns and booties for hospital staff.

"Unfortunately, Tekrider was not identified as an essential business based on the criteria set down by the province as this is not their normal product. In order to facilitate Tekrider remaining open, retooling their equipment, sourcing material required and to allow their workers to be on site, they needed a letter of support from the County which we were glad to be able to offer," the

Warden said.

Danielsen said any local firm that can help in the production of badly-needed protective equipment is to be applauded for their efforts, and which could play a part in saving lives, in the County.

While employees remained at home for a short time, the company purchased several new machines. Ten staff are back now and started sewing April 6.

Brand said they have established social distancing among other safety features in the newly-reconfigured plant. For example, staff wear protective clothing. Their temperatures are monitored. There are procedures in place so their homes are also safe. He said workers who volunteered to come back have been given a 15 per cent wage hike because there is some risk involved.

"Morale is really good. Everybody is quite happy to be at work," he said.

Brand said they will get a better idea

of production costs once they complete sampling this week.

It's been a win-win, with Tekrider able to keep people working, and contributing to coronavirus pandemic efforts.

Tekrider has been in touch with Haliburton Highlands Health Services as its first goal is to look after the needs of Haliburton County. They may also assist efforts in the City of Kawartha Lakes. While not finalized, Brand has also reached out to quilter's groups in the County about offering them work to sew mask from home. People are encouraged to follow Tekrider on Facebook for more details.

"We can cut 2,500 masks a day using a high-tech computer but we can't sew that many a day," Brand said.

Brand is retired military so says something such as this comes naturally to him and is "low stress." It's another way of giving back and "my folks are gung-ho to do it."



# Highlander news



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## Students start virtual learning at home

### COVID-19

By Joseph Quigley

Students across the highlands have started learning from home with the province extending school closures to at least May 4.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has joined boards across the province in launching Learning@Home, Ontario's program to keep kids learning while schools are shut during the pandemic. Students will receive instruction through a mix of online, email, printed materials, telephone and more.

Director of education Larry Hope said he is impressed with how well staff have handled readying for the program over the past two weeks, while classes were cancelled.

"Everything we do is making sure we support our students to the very best we possibly can," Hope said.

The program will assign students less work than they might under normal circumstances. Grades K-6 are assigned five hours of work per week, Grades 7-8 get 10 hours of work per week and secondary school students get three hours per credit course per week.

Hope said the workload is in consideration of the circumstances.

"It's trying to balance the self-directed nature that a lot of the work our students will be asked for, along with competing

demands in people's homes," Hope said.

Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden is restarting with an added spirit week, encouraging students to partake in several Easter-based activities, such as egg painting. Principal Jane Austin said the school has suggested activities for its students throughout the three-week break as well.

"It's just really to engage the kids in some fun and keep them connected," Austin said. "We just really wanted to continue that feeling of the kids belonging to a larger family. To give them that sense of ease and comfort."

She said the school is working through the hurdles of the transition as a team and taking steps to get whatever technology students need into their homes.

"The staff have been absolutely fantastic," Austin said. "The sharing of innovative ideas and just the connections they've been making with families have been pretty incredible."

Grade 11 student Jacob Dobson said although he will miss the school environment and knows some will have difficulties switching to online, he thinks he can adapt.

"It's important that people are able to complete their years and their courses and to get those credits, versus just leaving them where they are," Dobson said.

The Ministry of Education is closing




Students will begin learning from home this week as schools remain closed due to COVID-19. *File photo.*

school buildings until at least May 4. Hope said they can only plan for that date but have an understanding they may have to be prepared to go beyond it.

He added schools are working with families to figure out what service delivery will work for them, knowing online may

not work universally. Special needs students are also being looked after, he said.

"We're mindful of students with special needs, we're mindful of students at varying levels of reading skills," Hope said. "We have a good cohort of teachers and staff available to support those kids."



*Thank you*  
to all those who remain on the front line

**JAMIE SCHMALE, MP**  
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# Editorial opinion

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## The Highlander's Mission

- To tell the story of Haliburton County each week
- To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas
- To report on issues, people and events important to the community
- To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands
- To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

## Public health must be protected

By Joseph Quigley

With people recognizing the everyday heroism of frontline workers during this pandemic, I would like to give a shout out to those working in public health.

Public Health officials are not always recognized as much as their counterparts in emergency rooms or family clinics. Things such as education campaigns, flu shot reminders, research and sometimes-controversial harm reduction initiatives can be easy for your average person to brush aside. But the battle against COVID-19 will be won by the incredible labour of public health workers and they deserve all the praise in the world for their efforts, which have gotten most people on board with social distancing.

Perhaps public ignorance is part of why the province targeted public health for cuts and restructuring this past year, something that garnered relatively little fanfare compared to cuts to education and autism programming.

But people should have a better understanding now of what makes public health so vital – and why we cannot afford to cut it.

The province began downloading public health unit costs to municipalities this year, earning scorn and putting municipal leaders

in an awkward position. Public health units also received information last year the government would amalgamate the 35 units into 10. That has not yet come to pass but a modernization review was underway before COVID-19 hit.

It is uncertain at this point how many units the province will amalgamate, moves which would assuredly be done with cost savings in mind. I am sure some adjustments will be welcome efficiencies. But anything that can be reasonably interpreted as a cut will, and should, be extremely unpopular.

The costs of investing in public health to prevent illness will generally be cheaper than the costs of treating that illness down the line. Although there may be some duplication in public health work, amalgamating units is questionable as an answer, when there is plenty of local-specific health issues that need local-specific response. We have seen that during the pandemic in our tri-county area, where numbers differed drastically in the City of Kawartha Lakes due to the outbreak at Pinecrest Nursing home in Bobcaygeon.

The crisis has shown what makes public health so important - to prevent the spread of illness before people reach emergency rooms and hospital beds. Whenever we are safe from COVID-19, any government will have a hard time slashing public health.

By the end of this, based on Ontario's projections, tens of thousands of Ontarians will owe their lives to the work of public health.

But the service will remain just as important even when COVID-19 fades into memory. Harm reduction and illness prevention are vital, even if underrated. This crisis has also taught us to be more mindful of serious health threats to come. We need health units to be prepared for the next pandemic, whenever it is.

It was not right for the province to download costs to municipalities, a cop-out to save costs when ultimately, the taxpayers still bear the bill. The County has complained about getting more of the bill when they have little say in health unit spending and it is a fair argument. The province may feel pressed to find more savings, but municipalities are also under economic pressure, and do not have the same ability to absorb costs.

When the dust settles after COVID-19, the public needs to stand up and protect public health, just as public health protected them. We cannot take it for granted.



By Joseph Quigley

## Spending time in nature

Guest column by health coach Lisa Tolentino

Have you started to put on weight because you're snacking too much, or simply stress eating over COVID-19?

It's nothing to be ashamed of. It's totally understandable, even to be expected. Thankfully, you can do something about it before things get out of control.

For many, our emotions and collective anxiety have begun to tamper down as we begin to get used to the physical distancing and stay-at-home guidelines recently put in place. As we start to develop more routines and regular activities, we can turn our attention to our ongoing and overall wellbeing – creating a balance between our physical, mental and emotional health.

For instance, we have been hearing a lot lately about focusing on what we can control as opposed to what we cannot. Therefore, we might want to avoid impulsive behaviours such as emotional or stress eating by developing a plan for dealing with feelings of being overwhelmed or distressed. Such a plan can look different for each of us depending on how we cope with various conditions.

Some of us might draw on positive coping behaviours that have worked for us in the past (such as having a large glass of water or going for a walk whenever we have an unhealthy craving). We may just have to adapt to our present situation (such as working from home and/or spending every day of the week with our kids).

Others will have to develop new strategies. These may be things that we've ever tried before, or that we've attempted in the past but didn't work. We have an opportunity now to consider trying these things for the first or another time. They might work under these altered circumstances.

Whatever your situation, keep an open mind about developing your plan and strategies, and use whatever works for you. Remember to be realistic and kind to yourself - only pushing as much as your mind, body and spirit can take right now.

## Get some Vitamin N

There is lots of research that has shown the role that the natural world plays on the physical, mental and emotional health of human beings.

Richard Louv is the author of several books that tout the benefits of Vitamin "N" (N = nature). Drawing on his own research, as well as that of scientists and great thinkers throughout history, he illustrates that individuals and groups that spend more time in nature receive incredible physical, psychological and spiritual benefits. They are happier, less anxious, have stronger immune systems, better ability to cope with difficult circumstances, increased social skills, and are more physically fit.

Getting outside reduces obesity and depression, boosts creativity and allows us to have fun. It's hard to be sad, mad or stressed when we're outside in nature, as it calms our nerves, opens our hearts and allows us to get exercise at the same time. Plus, studies show that viruses are more difficult to transmit outdoors than indoors.

I think Vitamin "N" is the perfect prescription for us to deal with the world right now. In the Haliburton Highlands, we are infinitely blessed to be surrounded by nature. So, rather than screen time and snacking, get outside more (either by yourself or with the others in your household) – it will do all of us a world of good while still physically distancing.



## Have an opinion?

Send your letters to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)

# Editorial opinion

## EYE ON THE STREET

With social distancing, we have stopped Eye on the Street for now.

### LETTERS

#### Work together to protect the towns we love

Dear editor,

I would like to thank you for your well said article in the recent publication of *The Highlander* (April 2, 2020).

It is very disturbing to hear we, cottagers, are unwelcome to a place we cherish and have made our seasonal home for more than 40 years, perhaps longer than those concerned full-time residents.

Shame on both full-time residents and cottagers who are not sensitive to the situation and are not practicing social distancing. Instead of harsh words, we should be working together to protect the towns we love. The sooner we work together, the sooner we will be able to play in the sand box together again.

Very much appreciated.

Emily Doyle  
Toronto

#### Stay at home – stay safe

Dear editor,

While in our local store, a man was coughing without having the fortitude to cough into his arm or even cover his mouth.

The prior evening, I witnessed a group of approximately six individuals jogging along County Road 503.

How about stop hoarding groceries especially seeing us locals also require various grocery products to feed our families?

Have also noticed up to four-plus vehicles parked at numerous seasonal dwellings. Wonder how many of such individuals have been tested for COVID-19 and received an all-clear result prior to venturing to their cottages in Haliburton County?

With somewhat limited resources, how could our health care facilities and staff handle an influx of seasonal people with COVID-19? It astounds me how many people lack common sense and integrity without due consideration as to how many lives could be put at risk in Haliburton County and area. Obviously stay at home-stay safe appears beyond comprehension for many.

Beverly MacDuff  
Gooderham

#### Following the rules

Dear editor,

I read your editorial and Jacks' (Brezina) article with great interest. (*The Highlander*, April 2, 2020, page 6).

Now, how you say, are they connected?

Easy. I have heard from a few of my cottage friends the refrain, "I pay taxes and I have the right to use my cottage."

Well, yes, you do, but before you head off to your splendid isolation, consider this. If you become ill and cannot make it back home, what then?

The Haliburton Hospital, which consistently rates very well against similar institutions, has only 15 beds and lacks the resources of its big city counterparts.

And, in case you think you will have time to make that decision, consider the comments of an ER doc on *60 Minutes* March 29. She reported that an individual could walk in in the morning with minor symptoms and be on a ventilator by supper time. Can you move that fast?

And if you do make the hospital here, and need that special care, are you depriving one of your local friends of that care? Friends like my performing buddy Jack (Brezina) whose humour always lifts my spirits even if it did take a monkey bite to his butt to get that smile.

I am sure you have similar friends here that you only see in the summer but are an important part of your life here in Haliburton. I am writing this from our cottage here. We came up April 2 and left April 3. We brought our food from home and, except for a quick trip to Home Hardware, did not draw down needed local food or supplies.

We hope to be back but will follow the rules and hopefully when this is done, we can all have a giant barbecue and celebrate together. That's what friends do.

Dr. Peter Markle  
Toronto

#### Criminals adjusting schedules

Dear editor,

I just watched a news report implying that the police and obviously Barrie news feel the recent increase in night time break-ins and burglaries to small businesses in the Barrie area are related to the many people who are unemployed now due to the forced closings of so many non-essential businesses.

I would argue that the increase would more likely be caused by the fact that the neighborhoods that these crooks usually frequent during the day are no longer deserted during the day but occupied by those same laid off working-class people so the thieves have no choice but to adjust their illegal habits. To suggest that honest working people would so quickly turn to crime, even to support their families, is very disappointing.

Mike Simon  
Maple Lake, Haliburton

#### A shout out to Tekrider

Dear editor,

I would like to give a huge shout out to Tekrider, a local Kinmount business, who has joined the list of over 5,000 businesses across Canada to make much needed essential P.P.E.'S. (personal protective equipment).

The Tekteam has been designated an essential service and has started production to make medical gowns, masks, booties and bouffants. As a neighbour of Steve Brand, the owner, I would like to congratulate Steve for supporting his staff, and to his team for providing this invaluable service to our community through this challenging crisis.

Together we can all make a difference.

Bonnie Roe  
Ritchie Falls

### PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Jennifer Burrows sent in this photo this week, which seemed fitting, with Premier Doug Ford declaring the Easter Bunny an essential service amid COVID-19. Happy Easter everyone.

## PHOTO CONTEST

*The Highlander* is looking for your best photos for inclusion in this year's **THE HIGHLANDER HANDBOOK.**

We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submission will be printed on this year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi). Please limit 3 entries per person. **Deadline April 20, 2020.** Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email. Send entries to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)



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# Highlander news

## COVID-19

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## COVID-19 NEWS

### Haliburton adds six beds for COVID-19

Haliburton Highland Health Services (HHHS) is adjusting its acute care units in Haliburton and Minden to separate patients with and without COVID-19 symptoms.

HHHS announced its acute care unit at the Haliburton hospital has been expanded from 15 to 21 beds for COVID-related needs, while its nine-bed acute care unit at the Minden hospital will be for non-COVID admissions.

HHHS is encouraging residents with respiratory symptoms going to an emergency room to go to the Haliburton site, while those without go to the Minden site. However, no emergency will be turned away at either site.

The organization said with a COVID-19 assessment centre now in Haliburton, it wants to ensure people with symptoms can be easily referred there if needed.

### Websites launched

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Community Programs has launched a new website providing information on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization launched HaliburtonCares.Ca April 2. It offers details about what people can do if they experience symptoms, how to access regular health care and what community support is available. Vice president of community programs Stephanie MacLaren credited the site to TechnicaitiesPlus and local service providers.

"We are grateful for this team effort and hope that the site will be of value to our community," MacLaren said.

The site also offers a form people can complete to send a message of thanks to health care workers, first responders, community support workers and volunteers.

The County of Haliburton also launched a new COVID webpage April 3 available at <https://haliburtoncounty.ca/covid-19/>.

### Pinestone workers get delayed pay

Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre workers received their pay April 3 after a week delay.

Laid-off employees raised concern about missing out on pay March 27, when ownership, Aurora Hotel Group, said they were having difficulties with their payroll company due to COVID-19 office closures.

Pinestone cook Heather Allen Reid said she was surprised to receive it.

"I didn't have any hopes of it actually coming," Reid said. "But I think they were pushed to do it. I don't think they would have given it to us if nobody pushed."

A request for comment sent to Pinestone management was not answered before press time.

Despite getting the pay owed, Reid said the delay still put her in a bad situation and it was not right.

"They made us wait a whole week, it doesn't really make up anything to me. I'm still not happy with them, the way they treated us," Reid said.

### Agencies cancel cottage bookings

All Season Cottage Rentals and Cottage Care Rentals said April 6 they're taking proactive action to avoid transmitting the coronavirus.

In a joint press release, Cheryl McCombe and Don Critchley of Cottage Care Rentals, and Janice Bishop and JT Lowes of All Season Cottage Rentals said they'd cancelled guest stays from mid-March until June 2. They added they're not taking any new bookings for guest stays until June 3.

"We are closely monitoring the directives from government and will, if required, cancel any future guests stays as needed to keep our community safe. By placing a moratorium on bookings, we are doing our part to help keep the community safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19," the owners said.

### OPP enforcement during COVID-19

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is encouraging businesses and individuals to voluntarily comply with the short-term restrictions introduced by the federal and provincial governments to combat the spread of COVID-19.

In an April 3 press release, they said while education, awareness and compliance are preferred options, officers will apply discretion to lay charges under the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). Enforcement actions can include offences relating to the operation of non-essential businesses and gatherings of more than five people, with some exceptions.

Additionally, police have the authority to arrest those in non-compliance of the federal Quarantine Act at the request of a screening or quarantine officer.

"The OPP will continue to

provide public safety services to the communities we serve and support the efforts of federal, provincial and local health authorities during the current situation involving COVID-19," the release said.

For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For all other police matters, including non-compliance to the EMPCA, call your local police or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. For less serious incidents, report online by visiting [opp.ca/reporting](http://opp.ca/reporting).

### Pincrest death toll at 28

The COVID-19 outbreak at the Pincrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon has now claimed the lives of 28 people.

In a message to the Kawartha Lakes community April 7, administrator Mary Carr said Pincrest followed existing outbreak management plans for the likes of flu and cold, including the isolation of symptomatic residents. But COVID-19's severity presented unique challenges.

"Due to the size of our home and limited front-line capacity, we have been faced with unprecedented circumstances," Carr said.

CBC News reported April 7 that 16 people had died at the facility before there was enough space to place sick and healthy people into different rooms.

Carr said public health officials are sharing findings to inform procedures for other homes in the province.

"Many of the new and ongoing care directives issued from the province over the past few weeks have been informed by the situation at Pincrest," Carr said. "Infectious diseases experts have been learning new things each day."

### Boat launches open

Municipalities have closed outdoor recreational amenities but lake access points remain open.

The province ordered the closure of the amenities March 30, resulting in parks, beaches and more to be closed throughout the County.

However, Dysart et al and Highlands East said boat launches will remain open. Minden boat launches are also open except for the Peck Street boat launch. Algonquin Highlands has also not closed its lake access points.

"These areas do not contain high-touch surfaces and can be easily accessed while respecting social distancing rules," Dysart et al said in an April 3 release.

(COVID-19 News compiled by Lisa Gervais and Joseph Quigley).

## WHERE TO GET THE HIGHLANDER

To do what we can for social distancing, we've consolidated our distribution to the following pick-up points. We're sorry if your newspaper isn't where you normally pick it up.

If you're staying home, don't forget you can sign up to read the entire newspaper on your computer, just as it's printed, at: [thehighlander.ca](http://thehighlander.ca)

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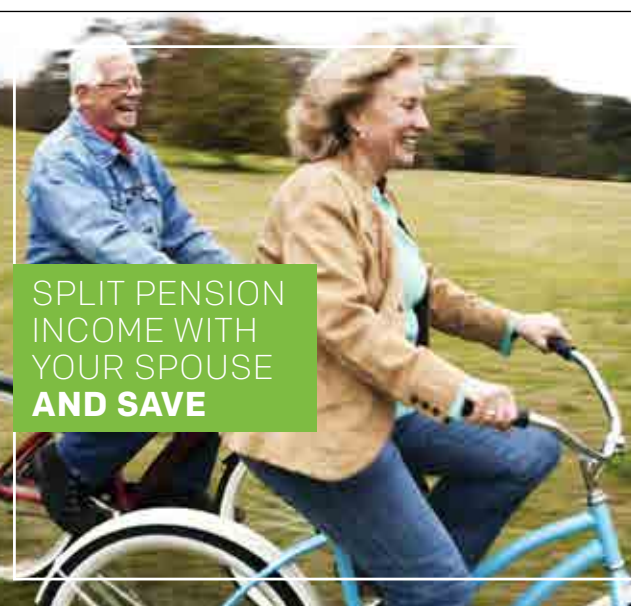
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# Highlander news

## COVID-19

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[www.haliburtonchamber.com](http://www.haliburtonchamber.com)

## Fraudsters take advantage of virus

### COVID-19

By Joseph Quigley

Local Renata Swiezawski said she was alarmed when a fraudster contacted her family as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on.

The person attempted to coax an account number from her husband over the phone with the promise of payment from a government tax credit. The fraud did not fool them, but Swiezawski said she worries about other vulnerable people during the crisis.

"The government is throwing lots of money," Swiezawski said. "Our brains are working double time. We're not checking everything carefully, lots of people get confused."

OPP said frauds are continuing during the pandemic and scam artists are leveraging the crisis into their efforts.

Central region media relations spokesman Sgt. Jason Folz said police have seen COVID-19 adapted into scams, such as selling protective equipment and sanitizer at inflated prices, more door-to-door collecting since people are staying inside and falsely soliciting donations for charities.

"The OPP has seen numerous people taking advantage of this situation with people at home," Folz said. "People need to be wary of anyone they don't know either soliciting them at their door, by phone, text or email."

"I can't say for sure it's increased, but it's changed its direction," he added. "Everyone's mind is on the COVID outbreak. That's how they've adapted what they're doing."

Folz said rather than trust strangers soliciting charitable donations, people should instead stick with charities they already know and trust.

People can report scam attempts to the



OPP said they have seen scammers try to exploit the COVID-19 crisis. *File photo.*

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501. Those victimized by a scam can also contact the OPP non-emergency line at 1-888-310-1122.

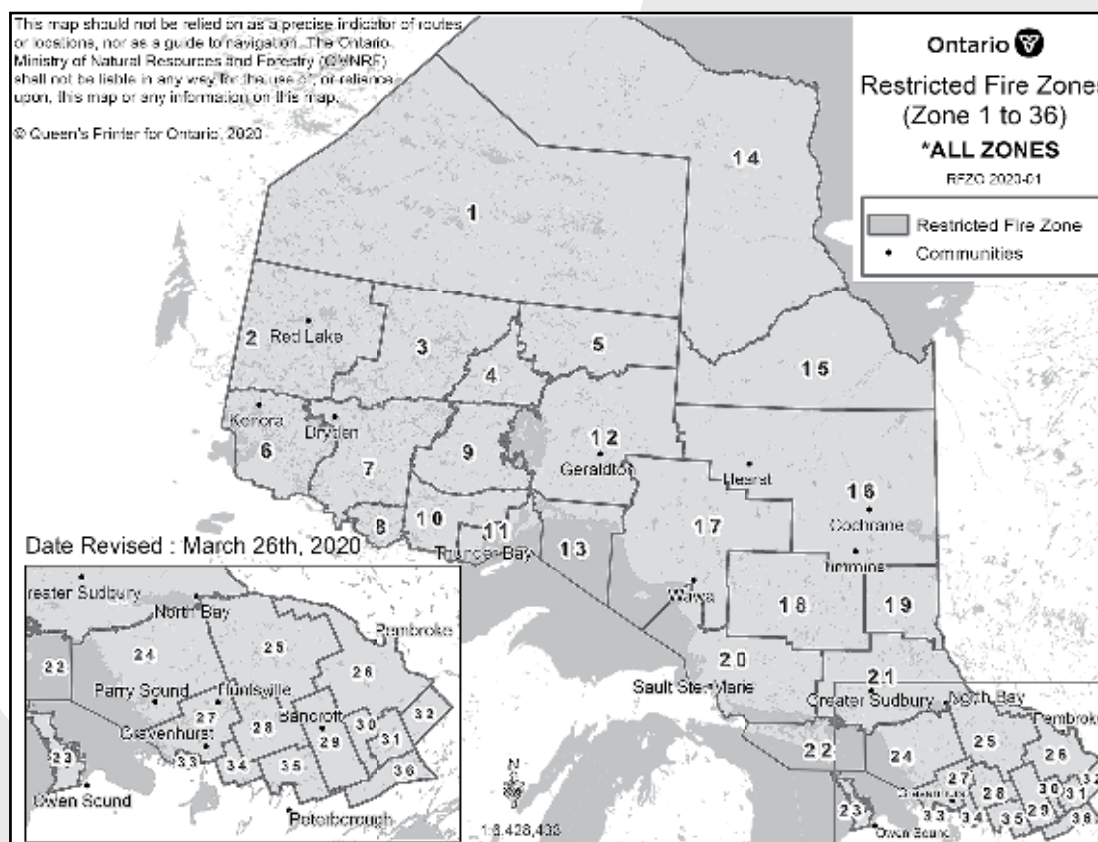
Swiezawski said people need to be careful and ask questions if anyone requests personal information or money.

"Everything at the moment is a state of emergency ... It will be a time for crooks, really bad crooks, people who don't have the mercy," she said. "We're scared."

## RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE IN EFFECT

For all Zones in the fire region of Ontario

In order to ensure public safety and well-being during the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, Ontario has declared a Restricted Fire Zone for the entire fire region of the province (Restricted Fire Zones 1 to 36) outlined in the map below, effective April 3rd, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.



The Restricted Fire Zone is in effect until further notice. This is a proactive action to reduce the number of preventable human-caused fires and reduce the risk of wildfires impacting the public.

Restricted Fire Zones help protect public safety. In a Restricted Fire Zone, outdoor fires are banned. Portable gas stoves may still be used BUT must be handled with extreme care. For more information, contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Fire Management Headquarters.

For detailed information on the Restricted Fire Zone boundaries visit: [Ontario.ca/forestfire](http://Ontario.ca/forestfire).



# Highlander news

## Pregnant women opting for stay-at-home births

### COVID-19

By Joseph Quigley

Morgan Dinunzio did not expect to be having a baby under the circumstances of a pandemic.

The Bancroft-area resident, who is 38-weeks pregnant, said she had intended to have her first baby at a Peterborough hospital. But concerns about COVID-19 changed her plans.

"With everything going on, once I heard they had cases there, and once I've seen how quickly it's spreading everywhere else in the world," Dinunzio said. "Midwives convinced me to do a home birth."

Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft said that's a trend amongst their clients, with more expecting families opting for home over hospital.

Registered midwife Stephanie Simon said about two-thirds of their clients are now choosing a home birth, versus about one-third before the pandemic.

She said although Peterborough's unit is a fairly closed area, their clients have still been worried about the transmission in the city.

"The safety net of being in the hospital doesn't feel quite as safe anymore," Simon said. "One is the worry that they themselves would get COVID-19. And the other, bigger concern we hear about is the babies might get it."

"It worries me knowing there's definitely cases at Peterborough hospital," Dinunzio said. "Whereas I know in my home, who's

coming in and out of my house. A little more reassuring."

Hospitals are also limiting how many support persons are allowed during birth. But Simon said they are still recommending hospital births for people with low risk.

But social distancing rules have impacted pregnancy as well. Simon said like everyone else, midwives have had to adjust, doing more remote conferencing, wearing protective equipment and upping sanitization.

"No longer having any face-to-face interaction has been quite different for us," Simon said. "A lot more anxiety and worry. Spending a lot more time doing counselling appointments."

However, Simon said fortunately, research is showing pregnant women are not more vulnerable to COVID-19, nor can they transmit to a child before birth.

Dinunzio said there have been additional hurdles in the last weeks of her pregnancy, as she's stayed home and relied more on her partner to take care of things such as shopping. Prenatal care has also been different, but she praised midwifery services.

"I was really thankful that I had them," she said. "One of the midwives visited me at home for one of my visits. So, they've been really accommodating."

Dinunzio said there is a lot of preparation with a home birth, but the midwives have been reassuring.

"I was a little skeptical at first, but they've been good," she said. "I'm pretty confident about it."



Morgan Dinunzio, pictured with her partner Dustin Taylor, opted to change her birth plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo submitted.

## Realtors turn to technology to continue working

### COVID-19

By Lisa Harrison

Property prices in Haliburton County have risen substantially over the past three years.

From December 2016 to December 2019, the average sale price of a lake cottage rose by almost 30 per cent to \$486,250. The average "off-waterfront" residential price soared by 47 per cent to \$280,000. Local real estate agents attributed the growth to the ripple effect from Toronto and the GTA that we experience eight to 12 months later.

Then came COVID-19. So, what now?

"Interestingly enough, the spring market has been active with buyers calling and wanting to see property," said Rick Forget, broker with Re/Max Professionals Inc., in a Mar. 25 email interview.

"It is hard to say if or when this will change, but so far interest appears stronger than expected despite COVID-19."

As the severity of the virus became known, agents implemented best practice precautions to protect everyone's health when clients wanted personal tours, but otherwise turned to technology.

For example, sales representative Hilary Morrin said her firm eXp Realty Brokerage is a virtual company. Agents have been able

to work remotely since inception 10 years ago.

"We are able to take advantage of video conferencing, e-signatures and viewing videos of listings during this unprecedented time," said Morrin via email Mar. 28.

In times of economic uncertainty, it's natural for people to postpone large purchases, noted Anthony vanLieshout, Broker of Record with Royal LePage Trillium Team.

"As long as the number of cases [of COVID-19] is increasing, I don't see that there's going to be much activity in the marketplace," he said in a Mar. 24 phone interview.

"Once those numbers have peaked and they start to decline, I think we'll see a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm ... we're going to see a lot of pent-up demand ... [and] we're going to be swamped."

"Stay the course with [a] level of flexibility, we will need to adapt to the changing situation," Morrin advised buyers and sellers.

"Remain educated and speak to your real estate professional for market updates and analytical strategies."

Forget said there's reason to be optimistic. "The natural beauty of our towns and lakes draws potential buyers from all over



The spring market remains active according to some realtors. File photo.

Ontario, and the recreational and residential real estate market in Haliburton County offers everyone an affordable choice, when compared to a lot of other regions in Ontario," he said.

"At this point I expect this will continue for quite some time." (Real estate statistics supplied by the Trillium Team. For details, visit [trilliumteam.ca/market-stats](http://trilliumteam.ca/market-stats))



# Highlander arts

## Free ebook helps young children cope with COVID-19

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton writer Marie Gage, and her illustrator Audrey Ramsay, have just released a free ebook that is aimed at helping young children cope with the COVID-19 situation.

Gage said the world is a strange place to navigate these days and she thought it must be very difficult for young children to comprehend.

She said she wanted to do something to make it easier, something that would empower children to be a part of the solution while at the same time help them to understand that this is temporary.

"The underlying message is that a new, brighter day, with more of our usual freedoms, will come again if we all stick together," Gage said.

To this end, Gage and Ramsay have created the

free ebook for adults to download and read to their child.

She said children are encouraged to draw a picture of the new superhero, the Germ Defier, or to make a costume for themselves and take a photo. These can be uploaded to the Author Marie Gage Facebook page in the comments of the posting. Each participating child will then receive a free copy of one of Gage's other books: "*Blake's Monkey Adventure*" in ebook format as a thank you.

The free ebook can be accessed either through the Author Marie Gage Facebook page or the Author Marie Gage website:

<https://mariegage.ca/the-germ-defiers-a-new-superhero-team>

"We are hoping that everyone will share the link with their friends and family," Gage said.



Author Marie Gage with her new ebook. Photo submitted.

## INFORMATION PAGE

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**DISCLAIMER :** The information provided on this page is considered current and valid on as of April 6, 2020. While the Township of Minden Hills works diligently to provide the public with the most current information regarding service provisions and reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that, due to the rapidly evolving nature of the outbreak, information can, and may, change on a daily basis. The public is strongly encouraged to refer to our website at [www.mindenhill.ca](http://www.mindenhill.ca) for current and up-to-date information. Anyone unable to access the website can call 705-286-1260 or email [admin@mindenhill.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhill.ca) for assistance.

### Township Service Provision Reductions

A reminder that all Township facilities remain closed to the public, until further notice. Administrative call answering services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, 705-286-1260 x 200 or [admin@mindenhill.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhill.ca).

Please provide your name, contact information (phone and/or email) and a clear and brief message regarding the reason for your call.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

**We are asking the public to restrict inquiries to Township priority requests only and please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as Staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.**

We are also asking the public for their patience during this time and to observe our request to contact the Township for municipal related inquiries by the following methods only: Telephone: 705-286-1260 x. 200

Email: [admin@mindenhill.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhill.ca)

**Please do not call or email the various Departments or their related extensions or submit inquiries through the Minden Hills website Contact Us form.**

Please refer to the list provided on this page for **NEW** and/or **UPDATED** service provision reductions.

For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to: <https://www.mindenhill.ca/covid-19-information/>

### Easter Holiday Weekend

With the Easter holiday weekend fast approaching, the Township of Minden Hills understands the difficulties many of us will have in celebrating what is normally a highly social holiday, in a much more private and subdued way during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your continued efforts to maintain social and physical distancing during this time are genuinely appreciated, and will have a significant impact on the safety of you, your family and friends, and our community. Council and Staff would like to thank everyone for their efforts and actions to help flatten the curve and to wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable Easter holiday weekend.

**And for those who provide essential Health Care and Frontline Services, and who are not able to celebrate this Easter weekend in their traditional way, THANK YOU so very much for everything you've done and will continue to do to keep us well.**

Please note our Administrative Call Answering Services will not be monitored on **Fri Apr 10th & Mon Apr 13th** during the Easter holiday. If calling on these dates, please leave your name, number and reason for your call and the answering services will resume on **Tues Apr 14th**.

For Municipal Emergency contact after hours, please call: 1-866-856-3247. For all other emergency calls, please dial 911

### Spring Thaw Reminder

A reminder that springtime is typically the time of year when periods of precipitation historically occur. Property owners are reminded to be aware of and monitor their situation, as each can vary depending on: distance from watershed(s), distance from an unaffected accessible road, height of land, property saturation levels; and the availability, number, size and type of sump pump, etc.

Visit <https://mindenhill.ca/emergency-fire-services/flood-information/> for more information.

### Tax Due Date Extension

The tax due date for the 1st installment of the 2020 interim tax billing is **extended to April 24, 2020**, without penalty or interest.

### Meetings

All Council, Committee of the Whole, Public, Advisory Committee and Local Board regularly scheduled meetings have been suspended until further notice.

### Burn Permits

From April 1st to October 31st each year, Burn Permits are required to burn approved materials between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, as per By-law 19-57 for the Regulating of Open Air Fires.

Due to the current requirement for social/physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minden Hills Fire Department, along with the other fire departments in Haliburton County, have suspended the issuing of Burn Permits, until further notice. This is in conjunction with the Township's continuing effort to keep the community safe by implementing community-based measures to limit exposure to risk for the public, Township employees and volunteers.

The public is reminded that, as per By-law 19-57: No person shall start a fire, outdoors for burning untreated wood products, leaves and brush, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM without a permit. Any person that sets a fire within the restricted time without a permit shall be responsible for all fees, fines and costs incurred by the fire department.

### Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) due to COVID-19

Effective April 3, 2020, and until further notice, The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) have implemented a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) (**Fire Ban**) across the entire legislated fire region of Ontario due to impacts related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

This is proactive action by the Ministry is to reduce the number of preventable human-caused wildfires to ensure that emergency response capacity is maintained. Minimizing wildfires will ensure the province is able to address any emergency fire situations as well as will reduce necessary contact among staff, and between staff and the public.

For more information on MNRF fire restrictions, please visit their website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions>

### Property Assessment Values and Assessment Review Board

The Request for Reconsideration (RfR)

### SERVICE PROVISION REDUCTIONS:

deadline is usually March 31st of the applicable taxation year. However, given the emergency declared by the Province of Ontario, pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and regulations made thereunder, the **Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)** has announced that the RfR deadline for the 2020 taxation year will be 16 days after the emergency is lifted. <https://www.mpac.ca/>

For information regarding **Assessment Review Board** deferrals and timelines, please refer to the Board's website **under News and Updates: <https://elto.gov.on.ca/>**

### Public Parks, Playgrounds and Boat Launches

In accordance with the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the following Township maintained seasonal public parks, playgrounds and boat launches are **CLOSED**, effectively immediately, until further notice:

- Panorama Park
- Rotary Park
- Bissett Beach
- Lutterworth Park
- Furnace Falls
- Skateboard Park, Tennis Courts and Shuffle Board Courts
- Peck Street Boat Launch
- Downtown Public Dock (located on Water Street, along the Gull River)

A reminder that the Minden, Lochlin and Irondale Community Centres remain closed, including the children's playgrounds at each of these locations.

Signage and/or barricades will be placed at all affected locations. All other municipally maintained public boat launches will remain open at this time. When accessing these locations, ensure that you are practicing social/physical distancing with a minimum of 2m (6 feet) between yourself and other members of the public.

### A Reminder Regarding our Waste Sites (Landfills)

A reminder of reduced services at waste sites to the acceptance of bagged garbage and household recycling only was undertaken in

response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. The Township of Minden Hills is urging residents to avoid waste sites as much as possible, in order to reduce the number of individuals on site at any given time.

### Do not attend waste sites unless you have accumulated 3 full bags of garbage

When attending waste sites, please adhere to the following:

- **Do not** bring passengers to waste sites unless you need physical assistance unloading your vehicle or have no other arrangements made for watching a dependant (child, elderly, etc.).
- **Do not** cross any physical barriers put in place at each site.
- **Do not** approach attendants for assistance unless you are in physical distress.
- **Do not** attend the site with any materials beyond bagged household waste and recycling.
- **Do not** enter the site attendant's shelter or bring food or beverages for the site attendants.
- **Do not** exit your vehicle with the exception of unloading your vehicle at the household waste bin and recycling bins.
- All communication with site staff shall be completed through the window of your vehicle, and shall be limited to discussions regarding the disposal of your waste.
- When you have exited your vehicle, ensure that you are practicing social/physical distancing with a minimum of 2m (6 feet) between yourself and members of the public.

Any person verbally harassing or abusing site staff and/or failing to comply with the above requirements or regular waste facility rules/regulations **will be** suspended from attending the site for the remainder of the Provincial and Municipal declared COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

Please remember that these are **temporary** measures put in place to stop the transmission of COVID-19 and a **return to normal operations will require the immediate and full cooperation of the public.**



# Highlander arts

## A night out while staying in

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) said it's developing a live-streamed concert series featuring local musicians.

Two of the expected four concerts are scheduled for April 11 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and will be live-streamed from the Dominion Hotel on the society's Facebook page.

The April 11 concert features Albert Saxby, while April 25 showcases Cassidy Taylor.

In light of the current pandemic, the society has had to postpone or cancel most of its current activities.

Upcoming concerts have been postponed and open stages are on hold. Home Routes concerts have also been cancelled.

"This leaves the community without their usual entertainment options and leaves musicians without the ability to perform and earn money in the usual manner," the society said in an April 3 press release.

They added that many artists are finding innovative ways to earn income by providing online music lessons and presenting live-streaming concerts.

"The live-streamed concert series is HCFS' way of supporting local musicians while the current physical distancing and self-isolation protocols are in effect," the release went on to say.



The Haliburton County Folk Society, pictured here at winter camp, is hosting a series of live-stream concerts on its Facebook page. *File.*

They had a successful dry run with the support of the CanoeFM Radio Hall. The performers were Nick & Benton (Nick Russell and Benton Brown). The concert helped the HCFS work out many of the issues associated with presenting a quality live-streaming concert.

"It was a big success with more than 200 devices tuned-in to watch. With multiple people at each site, that is

a very large audience for our local events. This illustrates that there is in fact a demand and has inspired the HCFS to move ahead with the booking of more local artists," the release said.

All concerts are free but the HCFS will have a donation process that will allow viewers to show their appreciation to the artist in the form of a tip, if they are able. All tips go directly to the artist.

## Highlands Summer Festival cancelled

By Lisa Gervais

As a result of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Highlands Summer Festival announced April 6 it's reluctantly cancelled its 2020 season.

"The decision was taken after much deliberation and consideration of the options available to us," president of the board of directors, Brian Kipping said. "But in the end, the welfare of patrons, cast, crew and volunteers was uppermost in our minds in taking this course of action."

Kipping added while it is difficult to predict what the situation will be on the proposed opening day, June 29, the preparation work for the season would be starting now, with rehearsals, set construction, costume creation and meetings.

The recent banning of gatherings of more than five people and the uncertainty over the availability of venues, meant the theatre company cannot begin the processes needed to ensure a successful season.

Artistic producer Scot Denton said, "we were deeply committed to the 2020 season – the festival's creative team has been working since last

August to put it together. Performance rights have been purchased, we have beautiful set designs, and three wonderful casts were ready to begin work."

The line-up of shows for the 21st season included the musical, The Sound of Music, the Oscar Wilde classic The Importance of Being Earnest, the touching Every Brilliant Thing, comedian Lucien with tales of a working man, and the musical revue, Across the Pond, starring Leisa Way and the Lonely Hearts Club Band.

The season was scheduled to open June 29 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the high school in Haliburton. It would have run until August 6.

At the moment, the festival is expecting to move the presentations planned for this summer ahead to the 2021 season, however that could change depending on the availability of performance rights. And, while the season may look the same, the actual dates of the performances will have to be adjusted.

Ticket and pass holders are being offered three options:

\* Donate the cost of the ticket purchase to the festival. Patrons would

receive a receipt that can be used for income tax purposes.

\* Roll ticket purchases forward to the 2021 season. The festival says it will endeavour to ensure the 2021 tickets are as close to the dates/days selected for this season. The box office staff will be in contact with patrons to discuss options.

\* Receive a complete refund for the ticket purchase.

"As a charitable theatre company, the Highlands Summer Festival relies on the support of our patrons, both in donations and ticket sales to carry the season financially," Kipping said.

"We have already incurred expenses related to the 2020 season, will have more as we wind down for this year and when preparations begin for the 2021 season.

"Again, I would like to reiterate the thanks of everyone at Highlands Summer Festival for the community's support," Kipping said, emphasizing he was speaking for the board and everyone involved in the creation of the six-week summer theatre season.

"We share everyone's disappointment that the 2020 season will not happen as planned, but we look forward to seeing you at the theatre in 2021."

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# Highlander outdoors



Top left: Tom Dawson of Wintergreen Maple Syrup and Pancake Barn works on this year's batch of maple syrup at the Gelert Road facility. Top middle: The filtering process. Top right: Some of the infrastructure required to make maple syrup. Bottom left: Lines run through the trees at Wintergreen, collecting the sap. Bottom middle: Steam rises during the boiling process. Bottom right: The finished product, bottled, and ready to sell. *Photos submitted.*

## Sweet time of year

As maple syrup making winds down for the year, Dianne Dawson said it's been a great year of good quality runs. She added that each tree in a good year yields approximately one litre of syrup during the season. She said they're taking orders for syrup and other retail by phone (705-286-3202) and then having people pick up their orders to respect physical distancing. See [wintergreenmapleproducts.ca](http://wintergreenmapleproducts.ca). (Lisa Gervais)



# HOME OF THE HIGHLAND STORM

## COACH'S MESSAGE

REP NOVICE

I am absolutely honoured to have had the opportunity to coach this Rep Novice group of players over the 2019-2020 season.

The start of the season began with a few hiccups. Getting the news that MPS wasn't having a Rep Novice league had us scrambling to figure out where we would be playing out of. With support from the Highland Storm, we were fortunate to be granted permission to play within the Victoria Durham League. Transitioning this group from full-ice hockey, which was played in their 2018-2019 season, back to cross-ice for the first half of the season was a challenge that we faced together and came out strong. We hosted the Walt McKecknie Novice Rep tournament in November facing many teams from across Ontario, and it was here our team began to showcase our outstanding talents and prove we were a force to be reckoned with.

We dominated all three games in the cross-ice tournament in Campbellford held on January 4. As of Jan. 16, Major Novice made the final transition to full-ice hockey and the Storm swept all games, taking the A Championship at the Centre Hastings Tournament on Jan. 18. I am so proud of every single player this season; improvements in stick handling, player positioning and overall knowledge of the game is very evident from the start of our season. I couldn't have made it through the season without the support from my assistant coach, Scott Neilson. We made a great team, backing each other up when needed.

Thank you to trainers Marcus Rowe and Ryan Hughes and manager, Jessica Lloyd. A huge thank you to the many parents who offered so much support and encouragement throughout the season.

I am so excited for the future of this team, the many friendships I have watched develop amongst the players and families and the skills each and every one of them bring to the ice as a whole is phenomenal.

Although our season was cut short and we weren't able to participate in our final tournament for the year, I wish everyone a great summer and hope to see everyone back in the fall.

Coach Mike Hamilton






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**Cell: 705-340-1140 or 705-320-8768 Evenings**  
**E mail: info@daggspainting.com**

**Gord Ryckman Heating**  
LICENSED HEATING CONTRACTOR

- Installations of Propane Furnaces
- Gas Piping and Venting
- Propane Hot Water Heaters and Boilers
- Duct Work and HRV Installations
- Propane Fireplaces and Heaters
- Licensed Sheet Metal



PHONE: 705-286-6216  
EMAIL: [gordon.ryckman@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.ryckman@gmail.com)



## FUNERAL SERVICES

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE GORDON A. MONK FUNERAL HOME LTD.**

**REGARDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY CONCERNING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

We at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. recognize the seriousness of the State of Emergency declared by the Ontario Government and the Ministry of Health. As of today, public gatherings, services & receptions at our facilities will be suspended until further notice.

Our firm is still operating to the best of our ability in order to provide service to our families in their time of need. We will discuss options and address any concerns with each family until the crisis is over.

We are working diligently to keep the funeral home sanitized, so it will continue to be a healthy & safe environment for our families that are in need of our services.

In order to comply with the mandate at present time, we ask that if you need our assistance and/or require our services, please feel free to contact us at the funeral home and make an appointment, either by telephone or email.

We appreciate your understanding in this trying time.

Sincerely,

**Kirsten L. Monk &  
Barry A. Cray**



[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

127 Bobcaygeon Rd, P.O. BOX 427, ON K0M 1K0  
• Phone (705)286-2181 • Fax (705)286-6661 • Toll Free 1-888-588-5777  
• [info@gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@gordonmonkfuneralhome.com) • [www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

## CALL FOR PROPOSAL



Township of Algonquin Highlands

### Call for Proposal

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is inviting sealed bids from those interested in submitting proposals for the following project:

**Screen and Stack Winter Sand  
PWP-01-20**

Closing Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 at 3:00 pm (ET)

Proposal and submission documents can be found at  
**[www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca)**

In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Township of Algonquin Highlands office is closed. Please leave proposals in the drop box at the entrance to the main office at 1123 North Shore Road.

For further information contact:  
Adam Thorn, Operations Manager  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
**[athorn@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:athorn@algonquinhighlands.ca)** • 705-489-2379

## FIREWOOD

# FIREWOOD

**Cut, Hand Split, Delivered \$350/single bush cord**  
**Multiple Cord Rates \$325**



Hand Thrown into truck  
Very Clean, All Hardwood  
90% Maple, 10% Cherry, Oak,  
Beech - Seasoned & Dry

**Call Brian 705-930-7198**

**Nesbitt's Firewood**  
**\$325 per Bush Delivered**



**Martin Nesbitt**  
Call or Text **705-935-0950**  
**[amartin99@sympatico.ca](mailto:amartin99@sympatico.ca)**

## NO CHEATING! SOLUTIONS FOR APRIL 9

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12						
	R	E	V	A	M	P		R	E	P	A	D	S						
	13	A	V	O	W	E	R		14	F	A	R	C	R	Y				
	15	K	A	T	E	M	I	16	D	D	L	E	T	O	N				
17	B	E	D	E		18	B	S	E		19	F	I	V	E	20	O		
21	A	S	I		22	S	E	M	I	23	D	R	I	V	E	R	S		
25	B	I	N	D	E	R	S		27	R	E	X		28	A	G	T		
29	A	N	G	E	L			30	L	A	P		31	S	T	Y	E		
			32	F	L	I	P	A	C	O	I	N							
36	A	S	38	P	S		39	T	E	X		40	G	I	M	42	M	43	E
44	B	T	O		45	Y	E	R		46	B	L	O	T	O	U	T		
48	B	E	T	T	E	M	I	50	D	L	E	R		51	N	N	E		
52	A	P	S	I	S			53	I	A	N		54	M	O	C	S		
	55	T	H	E	M	56	I	D	A	S	T	58	O	U	C	H			
	59	W	O	M	E	N	S			60	T	I	T	T	L	E			
	61	O	P	E	N	T	O			62	S	L	A	T	E	D			

## HIRING?

Reach thousands of potential employees in The Highlander. Call 705-457-2900 or email [sales@thehighlander.ca](mailto:sales@thehighlander.ca).

**TheHighlander**



# Highlander classifieds

## HELP WANTED

CLEANERS needed Tuesday to Friday for residential and commercial properties. NO WEEKEND WORK. Must have own vehicle. Call **705-854-0436**



The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) currently has exciting opportunities available for energetic individuals to join our team!

### REGISTERED NURSES

Candidates are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The RN is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable.

The successful candidate will possess a current triage course certification, Coronary Care 1, and current ACLS are required to work in the Emergency Department. Candidates that lack advanced certification in Coronary Care 2 and Emergency Nursing 1 and 2 may be hired with the requirement to independently attain these qualifications within 6 months-2 years of hire, depending on the certification, in order to work in all areas.

Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Recent experience is preferred.

### REGISTERED PRACTICAL NURSES

provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable.

RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS, with regular and consistent participation of CNO's quality assurance and reflective practice program. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to read, write and communicate effectively in English. Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well with patients/family, staff, physicians and the community are critical. Added Nursing skills for RPN's. In addition, the successful candidate must be available to work day, evening and night shifts, along with weekends and statutory holidays. A commitment to attend work on a consistent basis is also a requirement.

### THE PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER

provides resident care in relation to activities of daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable.

Candidates must have successfully completed a Personal Support Worker program that meets one of the following: The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association and is at least 600 hours in length. Experience in working with the acutely or chronically ill and/or palliative clients preferred, understanding of MDS RAI is an asset, good problem solver, organizing your own work, excellent recording and reporting skills, personal care skills, ability to read, write and communicate effectively in English, CPR Preferred.

Further details and how to apply are available on our website at <https://www.hhhs.ca>



### Shepherd Environmental Services HIRING

Vacuum Truck Driver/Operator

- Dz License Required
- Clean Drivers Abstract
- Knowledge Of Surrounding Area
- Some Labour Involved

Monday To Friday With Some Saturdays  
May 1 To December (Seasonal), Benefit Package Available

JOIN TEAM SHEPHERD!

APPLY BY EMAIL

[lshepherd@shepherdenvironmental.ca](mailto:lshepherd@shepherdenvironmental.ca)

705 454 3744

6798 Hwy 35, Cobocok, Ontario K0M1K0



Doyle Plumbing, Heating and Cooling is a full service Plumbing and HVAC business. We have expanded our service area to Haliburton County and we are in need of experienced **Plumbers and HVAC technicians**, with a strong background in residential service. Ideal candidate will be neat and clean in appearance, good with customers and have a clean driver's abstract.

### HVAC Tech

- Required: Gas fitter 2 licence, 313D Licence, min 3 yrs experience
- Oil Licence, light commercial experience and boiler/hydronic experience are assets

### PLUMBER

- Required: min 3 yrs experience
- Well and septic service experience a strong asset.

Full time, permanent, on call rotation required, company vehicle supplied. We offer a Great Salary, Bonus structure, Group Benefits, RRSP Match

Please email resume to: [tracey@doyleplumbing.ca](mailto:tracey@doyleplumbing.ca)

## FOR SALE

4 Snow tires - 225/65 R 17 - Dodge Caravan Aluminum rims \$300 and 4 Hankook Snow tires - 215/60 R 16 - Ford Van Steel rims \$300 and 2 Firestone Snow Tires - 225/65 R16 - No rims - Tires are like new \$300. Call 705 286 4333 ask for Richard Peter

## FOR RENT

Room for rent in Minden. Parking, Satellite, WiFi and all expenses included. Also 2 commercial/residential properties for rent in Minden, Call Joseph 705-306-0979

Room for rent in large house, share kitchen, livingrm, diningrm. 5 mins. to Minden. \$800 incl. Avail. Immed. 1st and last. Dave 705-455-2050

## An important message for our readers

In case of disruptions during the COVID-19 outbreak, here's how you can stay informed without leaving your home:

1. Read or download the full edition of The Highlander FREE online at [thehighlander.ca](http://thehighlander.ca).
2. Sign-up to get The Highlander delivered at [thehighlander.ca](http://thehighlander.ca) FREE every Thursday to your inbox, along with local information and announcements as they become available.
3. Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheHighlanderOnline](https://Facebook.com/TheHighlanderOnline).

### Stay in touch with The Highlander for

- Updates on event cancellations
- Health Unit updates
- Municipal and county information
- Local news as usual

You can also email us with information for the public, including closures, cancellations, store hours and announcements, etc. Send your email to [admin@thehighlander.ca](mailto:admin@thehighlander.ca).

TheHighlander





*Don't keep  
me a secret!*

Broker

**M E R C E R**

In the market to buy a home or  
cottage? Feel free to give me a call

705-457-0364 | [lisa@lisamercer.ca](mailto:lisa@lisamercer.ca)





# Highlander advisories

## COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

**John Fountain Electronics** Open by appointment only. Call 705-286-2536.

**Canadian Tire** Closed for in-store shopping but other options available. Curbside pickup hours: Mon - Sat: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Phone orders: 705-286-4400. Email orders: Mon - Fri: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. joannec@cantire682.com.

**Neighbours Helping Neighbours** Volunteer group picks up groceries or takeout food, provides a friendly call or email, or helps with urgent chores. Email Bonnieroe08@gmail.com or call 705-286-2414.

**Hyland Taxi** Reduced hours. Sunday -Thursday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Friday - Saturday 7 a.m. - 12 a.m. If transportation is needed outside hours, arrangements must be made the day before by calling 705-457-1777.

**Subway** Minden and Haliburton open for take-out/remote order from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**County Automotive** Open for repair only. Drop off only. Call 705-457-1411 or email countyautomotive@hotmail.com.

**Minden Electric** Emergency electrical calls only by telephone 705-286-2946 and by email to carla@mindenelectric.com. Hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Generator Solutions** Temporarily closed to public but staff still available at monica@generatorsolutions.ca or telephone 705-286-1003 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

**Bernstein's General Store** Not open to walk-ins. Call Marty at 705-457-1777 or email bernsteinsgeneralstore@gmail.com to order for curbside pick-up. FedEx drop offs available by appointment only 705-457-1777. FedEx pickups - you will be called to arrange curbside pickup

**Lockside Trading Company** Free virtual interior design and online shopping at lockside.com. Open daily 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 1-888-0484 or by appointment, or email shop@lockside.com, 24/7.

**Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast** closed until July 1. Taking reservations into the summer and beyond. 705-286-4922, sunnyrockbb.ca.

**Sew What!** Free washable fabric facemasks for anyone who needs them. Call or text 705-457-8764.

**Edilicious** Teamed up with Nourished to offer a falafel meal deal on Saturdays. Delivery available. Contact Nourished at

705-775-0525 to order.

**Wintergreen Maple Products** Making maple syrup. Retail products and syrup at site by appointment only. 705-286-3202.

**Step of Grace Conditioning Studio** Open with on-line training. Call 705 457-6749 or 416-707-1966.

**SIRCH** Free frozen take-out meals Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 2 Victoria Street, Haliburton.

**Abbey Gardens** Open Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Follow on Facebook for updates on operations. Call 705-754-4769 or email info@abbeygardens.ca for free delivery.

**McKee Security** Open for business with enhanced protective tools for employees and public. Call 705-457-2156.

**Northern HVAC.** Open for business and fully operational within the HVAC spectrum with new regulations for public safety. northernhvacco.ca. 705-489-2001.

**Transat Travel** Working remotely and can access calls and emails. pcc22ha@transat.com or 705-457-3290.

**Kegel Heating & Cooling** Open for emergency services and installations. 705-341-9170. kegelheatingandcooling.ca.

**Masters Bookstore** Closed to walk-in business. Place orders at mastersbookstore.ca, by phone 705-457-2223, or by email mastersbook@bellnet.ca. Pick-up/delivery will be arranged.

**Royal Lepage Trillium Team** Working from home and checking phone messages and emails regularly. trilliumteam.ca.

**Haliburton Dance Academy** Livestream classes. info@haliburtondanceacademy.com.

**Walkers Heating & Cooling Systems** Open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. for phone and email inquiries. No walk-in appointments. walkershvac.com For 24/7 emergency service call 705-457-2375.

**Minden Wine Store.** Closed. Will reassess April 7.

**Minden Subaru** Open by appointment only. Service: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Sales: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 705-286-6126.

**County Sign & Display** Closed to walk-in traffic but continuing to produce and supply signage. countysign@interhop.net. 705-286-6650.

**Haliburton Legion** Closed. Contact office Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 705-457-2571.

**Up River Trading Co.** Closed.

**Haliburton Auto** Closed.

**Tails and Trails** Offer doggy daycare and pet sitting. Open with regular hours. Call 705-935-8245 to find out what measures they are taking to avoid human contact.

**Highlands Medical Supplies** In-store personal shopping no longer available. Available to take your orders by phone or email. Pre-paid orders can be delivered or via a "Pick-Up Box". Call 705-457-9355 (Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.), Email: info@highlandsmedicalsupplies.com. Weekend/after hours: 705-455-2705 (urgent only.)

**Hawk River Construction** Open for business but closed to public. Payment, statements and invoices through email or mail.

**The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre** Closed to face-to-face client interactions. Staffed regular hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Friday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and available by phone or text (705-457-4673) or email (hope@haliburtonpregnancycentre.ca). If anyone (including non-clients) needs diapers, formula or baby clothing, contact them and arrangements will be made for pick-up.

**Castle Antiques** and Cafe Closed.

**Stone 21** located at Pinestone No longer offering takeout.

**The Cookhouse Restaurant** - Haliburton Forest Only takeout. Order ahead by calling 705-754-1729.

**South Algonquin Dinner** Open for take-out daily from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 705-448-1168.

**West G Pizza & Grill** Open for take-out and delivery after 4 p.m. Call 705-754-9141.

**The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta** House Open for take-out at 4 p.m. every day except Tuesday. Call 705-489-1939.

**Abbey Gardens Food Hub** open for retail shopping and take-out food only. Pre-orders welcome by calling 705-754-4769 or ordering online

**AM/PM** Outdoor Gourmet Special takeout menu. Open 6 days a week. Call 613-876-4639 or email amanda@ampmoutdoorgourmet.com.

**John E. Francis Fuels** Office closed but operating business as usual by phone or email. Invoices will be mailed or emailed, not delivered by drivers.

**Glecoff's Family Store** Store hours Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**McKeck's** Open for take-out and online ordering. Mon-Sat from 12-7 p.m. Menu at mckecks.ca/menu. Call 705-457-3443.

**Hudson Henderson Insurance Brokers** Open for appointments not walk-ins from Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Pet Valu** Haliburton store operating with reduced hours Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**WRD Cottage Rental Agency** Open as usual but working remotely. Call 705-457-9434 or email to fran@ontariocottagerental.com.

**Molly's Bistro** Bakery Open 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wednesday - Sunday. Takeout or frozen carry-home cuisine. Call ahead for order. 705-268-6988.

**Fleming CREW Employment Centre** Providing service via phone and email. Office at 49 Maple Ave closed to public. Call 705-457-2020 or email flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca.

**Courtney @ Bruce's Barbershop** Closed until further notice.

**Pine Grove Point** 4445 Elephant Lake Road, Harcourt. Open Sun - Thurs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri - Sat 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Variety Store open for essential needs and the Pizza & Snack Shack open for take-out orders.

**Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre** Closed. Posting images from current exhibition on Facebook.com/railsend.

**Riverview Furniture** Open with regular business hours via email or phone for furniture/flooring needs.

**Lacey's Hair Design** Closed. All appointments will be postponed. To rebook call 705-457-9888. or click the Phorest link on Instagram page.

**Baked and Battered** Closed.

**Nourished** Offers healthy, delicious, fresh and frozen food options. Wed - Sat 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. for takeout/delivery. 705-306-0526.

**The Beer Store** Minden and Haliburton locations will be closing at 7 on Fridays. No longer accepting empties.

**Century 21** Granite Realty Group Available only through appointment. Call 705-457-2128 or email info@century21granite.com.

Contact admin@thehighlander.ca for a free listing (25 words max)





**Connie Dykstra**  
CLIENT CARE ASSISTANT

**Kim Barnhart**  
CLIENT CARE MANAGER

**Linda Baumgartner**  
BROKER OF RECORD

**Nicole Baumgartner**  
BROKER

**Karen Wood**  
BROKER

**Rosemarie Jung**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

# THINKING OF YOU ALWAYS....

In these unprecedented times, we want you to know we are thinking of you and your families. Although it is business as "un" usual, we are here if you need us.

- From all of us at **The Haliburton Real Estate Team**

## OUR TEAM CONTINUES TO GROW!

*Welcome!*



**ROSEMARIE JUNG**

*Sales Representative*

Rosemarie developed her passion for real estate at a very early age. Rosemarie's focus as a Realtor is on helping people find their next home or cottage property. It's her personal approach to working with her clients that sets her apart.



**NICOLE BAUMGARTNER**

*Broker*

We are pleased to announce Nicole's return to the Team April 1st. She is moving back to the area with her husband and two daughters. She grew up immersed in the Real Estate Business, and brings a young, fresh and vibrant approach to the Team. She is also a lifelong Haliburtonian and Linda's daughter. Her dedication and excitement is evident to her clients



**CONNIE DYKSTRA**

*Client Care Assistant*

As our Client Care Assistant, Connie's collaboration with the team adds continuity to the services we provide our clients. Connie relocated to the Highlands in 2016. She brings ten years administration experience from both healthcare and a real estate background.